

Kuwait reports 'anti-Bush Iraqi plot'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Monday it had arrested a group of Iraqis equipped with explosives and arms. Newspapers said eight agents employed by Baghdad had planned to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to the emirate last month. A statement issued by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abd Al Aziz Dakhil Abdullah Al Dakhil made no mention of how many people the government had arrested or when. But it said Iraq had been interrogated and a quantity of arms and explosives had been seized. The statement said Iraq was bent on trying to undermine Kuwait. "This will lead to nothing but more lamentation for the Iraqi people and to more tension and instability in the region," the statement said. Newspapers reported that eight intelligence agents employed by Iraq had been arrested on April 13 and had intended to assassinate Mr. Bush and set off a car bomb during a visit he made to the emirate on April 14-16. Mr. Bush was accompanied on the visit by his wife Barbara and two of their sons. Also on the trip were former Secretary of State James Baker, former White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and former Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady. The London-based Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Aswat earlier identified the eight as seven stateless Arabs of Iraqi origin and one Kuwaiti.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

AMMAN CHICAGO

EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY
VIA AMSTERDAM, STARTING MAY 20th.

ROYAL JORDANIAN

YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD.

Sudan peace talks open in Nigeria

ABUJA (R) — Sudan's government and the main southern rebel group headed by John Garang opened a fresh round of Nigerian-brokered peace talks in Abuja Monday. Nigerian Vice-President Augustus Aikhomou opened the talks with a call for genuine compromise that would insure substantial progress to end one of Africa's longest-running civil wars. Colonel Garang, leader of the mainstream Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), was not present at the opening.

Ciampi asked to form Italian government

ROME (AFP) — President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro named Italian Central Bank Governor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi Monday to form the country's 52nd post-war government. Mr. Ciampi, 73, announced the decision after meeting with the president. He will replace Giuliano Amato, who handed in his government's resignation Thursday.

Columbia lifts off

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — Space shuttle Columbia thundered into orbit Monday with seven astronauts on a science mission chartered by Germany and years over due. The 2.02-million-kilogramme shuttle rose from its seismos pad on time at 10:50 a.m. EDT (1450 GMT), tearing through thick clouds as it arced out over the Atlantic Ocean. It was the third attempt to launch Columbia on the laboratory research mission. The first, one month ago, ended abruptly with an engine shutdown.

Iran sets June 11 presidential poll

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday registration of candidates would start next Saturday for June 11 presidential elections, widely expected to give Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani a second four-year term. Tehran Radio quoted Interior Minister Abdol-lah Nouri as saying registration would be open for five days. The official list of candidates will be announced a week later following vetting by the Guardian Council. Mr. Rafsanjani, 58, a pragmatic cleric who has tried to revive Iran's war-torn economy and improve its foreign ties, said in February he was ready to seek reelection. No other serious candidate has come forward although newspapers have mentioned other possible contenders such as Tehran's maverick Mayor Gholamhossein Karbaschi.

Demirel presidential bid hits snags

ANKARA (AFP) — A storm of opposition has broken around Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel in his bid to win broad support as presidential candidate in Turkey to replace Turgut Ozal who died 10 days ago. Mr. Demirel's traditional right-wing True Path Party has proposed him as more or less automatic successor, though a vote has to be obtained in the 450-seat parliament next month. But coalition partner Erdal Inonu of the Social Democratic Populist Party made it clear at the weekend he intended mounting stout resistance to a straightforward walkover. He said he was worried about the future of the coalition government. His party has 54 seats in parliament, and Mr. Demirel 182.

\$100,000 wired to blast suspects*

NEW YORK (AFP) — Suspects in the World Trade Centre blast received nearly \$100,000 wired from foreign banks, including some transfers from Iran, the New York Times reported Sunday. The daily quoted investigators as saying authorities believe the Feb. 26 explosion at the twin towers here, in which six people were killed and 1,000 wounded, was part of a "terrorist" plot. Five suspects of Middle Eastern origin have been charged in the case, but no country in the region has been mentioned publicly by U.S. authorities for alleged involvement. A sixth suspect is still being sought. Federal authorities have acknowledged that \$8,000 from Germany was traced to some of the suspects.

Peace talks resume today after four-month hiatus

Palestinians head for ninth bilaterals urging more active American role

Combined agency despatches

AMMAN — Palestinian negotiators left for Washington Monday to resume Middle East peace talks after a four-month break, saying they hoped the United States and Israel would offer some progress.

The overall head of the delegation urged the United States to take a more active role in bringing about a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Faisal Husseini also warned of "tragic consequences on the region and the whole world" if the 17-month-old Middle East peace process collapsed.

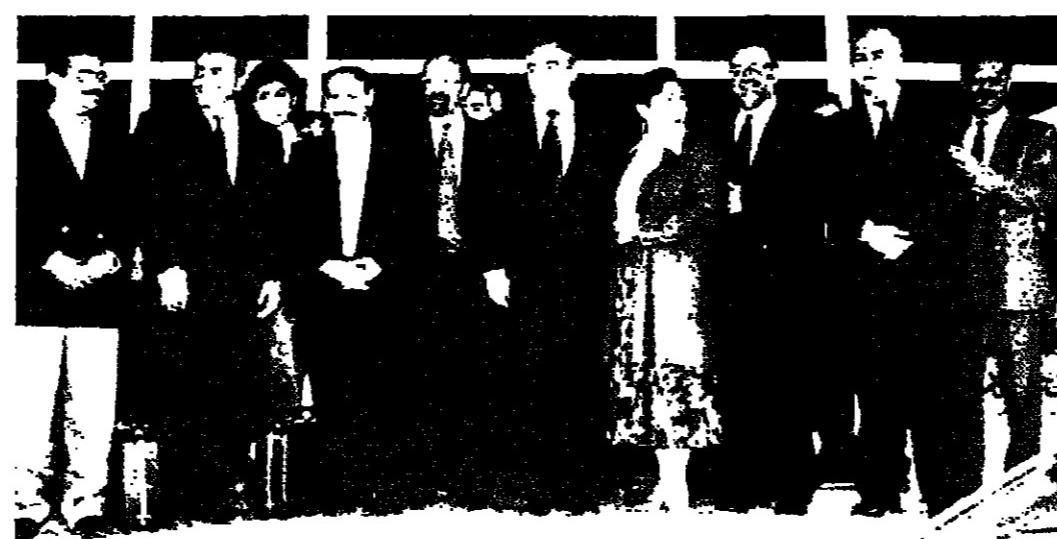
Mr. Husseini was accompanied by 10 other Palestinian negotiators and half a dozen advisers on the 13-hour trip to the U.S.

capital.

The head of the delegation to the talks, Haidar Abdul Shafi, and five other delegates from the occupied Gaza Strip flew to Washington at dawn Monday from Israel's Ben Gurion airport.

The Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian delegations left for Washington Saturday. The Israeli arrived Thursday.

The Palestinian delegation is returning to the United States reluctantly under orders from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who has staked much on winning concessions from the Israelis.



Palestinian delegates to peace talks pose for a group photo Monday prior to their departure for Washington (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

In Tunis, Mr. Arafat said he hoped the coming round "will be a turning point in the course of the negotiations."

"I hope the American and the Russian sponsors, and especially the American sponsor, will take into its consideration that this round is decisive and constructive measures should be taken," Mr. Arafat said.

Washington's meeting will not be attended by negotiators Ghassan Khatib and Sami Abdullah, both members of the Palestine

People's (Communist) Party who have demanded Israeli concessions before the talks start.

These include the phased return of the 396 Palestinian exiles and a commitment from Israel that it carry no further expulsion and halt human rights abuses in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Husseini said: "We call on the United States to take a more active and firm role in the upcoming peace negotiations in order to

bring about a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute."

"We are hoping that real and substantial progress will be achieved in the upcoming round of negotiations, otherwise the peace process will collapse and the whole region will not be able to bear its consequences."

He said at the opening session of peace negotiations, his team expects Israel to announce its

(Continued on page 5)

Expedited stage sit-in, page 2

Yeltsin wins referendum, but power feud continues

Combined agency despatches

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin won a confidence vote from Russians Monday and fresh Western support for his reform drive — but his main foes vowed to press on with a Kremlin power struggle.

Voters for a second time in two years expressed trust in Mr. Yeltsin who seeks to turn the world's biggest country into a free-market democracy under a Western-style presidency.

A nationwide referendum gave the 62-year-old president a moral victory over hardline opponents, according to preliminary results Monday.

Now, he has to perform a political conjuring trick to gain real political leverage and break months of stalemate which have paralysed Moscow.

With a turnout of more than 60 per cent among 100 million voters, Ria news agency said

he was studying the results.

(Continued on page 5)

Yemen goes to polls today

By Jean-Eudes Barbier
Agence France Presse

SANA — Yemen Tuesday holds its first full legislative elections, taking another step towards democracy since unification of the country three years ago.

Yemen, which has allowed political parties and freedom of expression since North and South Yemen united in May 1990, will become the second state on the Arabian Peninsula — after Kuwait — to have an elected assembly.

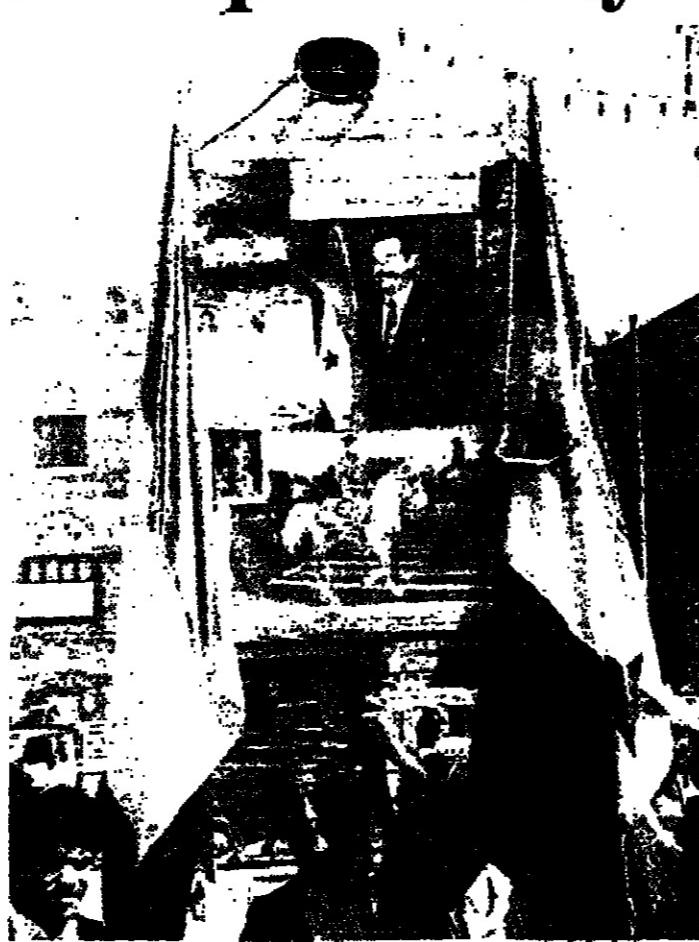
But opposition members warn that the risks of vote tampering is high, despite the presence of foreign observers.

The elections based on universal suffrage are expected to be carried by three main political parties which are fielding nearly 900 candidates.

Two of them currently govern the country: the General People's Congress (GPC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of Vice-President Ali Salim Al Bardh.

The third is the Islamic movement Al Islam of Sheikh Abdallah Ben Hussein Al Ahmar.

No surprises are expected in Tuesday's vote, but rural voters in particular have rallied around more than 3,000 independent or opposition candidates, though few of these are expected to win



A Yemeni carries posters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in election campaign (AFP photo)

Woman killed, 11 wounded in Gaza

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Troops shot and wounded at least 11 Palestinians in a series of clashes on the Gaza Strip Monday, including four protesting the raising of an Israeli flag, Palestinians said.

Soldiers opened fire after Palestinians threw stones at them for raising the flag on a rooftop lookout post in Khan Yunis, wounding the four, the sources said. The troops put up the flag to mark the 45th anniversary of the creation of Israel.

Three Palestinians were wounded in clashes with troops in the Shati refugee camp and four others in Nuseirat.

Meanwhile a Palestinian woman who was shot by troops last Wednesday died on Monday, bringing to 1,080 the total killed by Israelis since the intifada began in December 1987, according to an AP count.

Najah Hilmi Abu Dillal, 33, was shot in the eye in the Nuseirat camp during a demonstration.

Some 10,000 Israelis marched in support of Jewish settlers in the Gush Katif region, near Khan Yunis, to mark the Israeli celebrations.

The violence occurred as the occupied territories entered their fourth week of a closure imposed by Israel following a series of Arab attacks on Israelis in March.

The closure has cut off some 110,000 Palestinians wage earners from their jobs in Israel and has been used by the army to flush out wanted men.

The closure was tightened this weekend, excluding some 8,000 agricultural and building labourers still authorised to work in Israel.

On Sunday, Israeli troops shot and wounded two Jewish children in the occupied West Bank when the car they were riding in did not heed orders to stop, Israeli sources said.

They said the Israeli car was passing the Palestinian village of Ein Yabrud near the Jewish settlement of Ofra when an army patrol signalled it to stop. The car did not stop and the soldiers opened fire, wounding two children in the car.

The wounded were taken to hospital in Israel, the sources said.

OIC adopts tough step on Bosnia

KARACHI (Agencies) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) unanimously called Monday for lifting the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims and urged the United Nations to approve the use of force against Serb forces if necessary.

The OIC resolution, adopted by the delegation of all 51 countries attending a foreign ministers meeting here, also called for an arms embargo on the rump Republic of Yugoslavia, accused of helping the Bosnian Serbs.

The resolution urged the Security Council to "immediately take further appropriate measures, including the authorisation of the use of force" to ensure that the Serbs did not receive weapons.

The world body should place

"all heavy weapons in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina under effective international physical control, or neutralise them to render them inoperative."

The resolution also called for the "interdiction of all arms supplies to the Serbs and the institution of appropriate measures for reparations for the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Serbia and Montenegro," the two states left in the rump Republic of Yugoslavia which have been accused of helping Bosnian Serbs fighting Muslims.

Earlier, Jordan called on the conference to help stop Serbia

(Continued on page 5)

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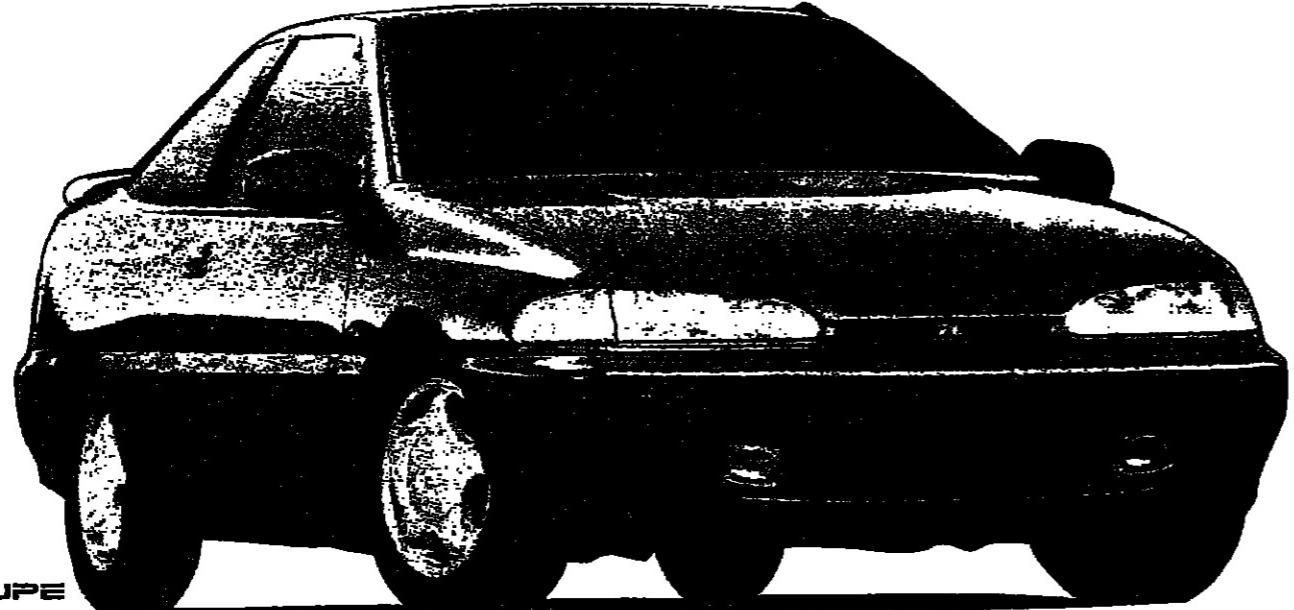
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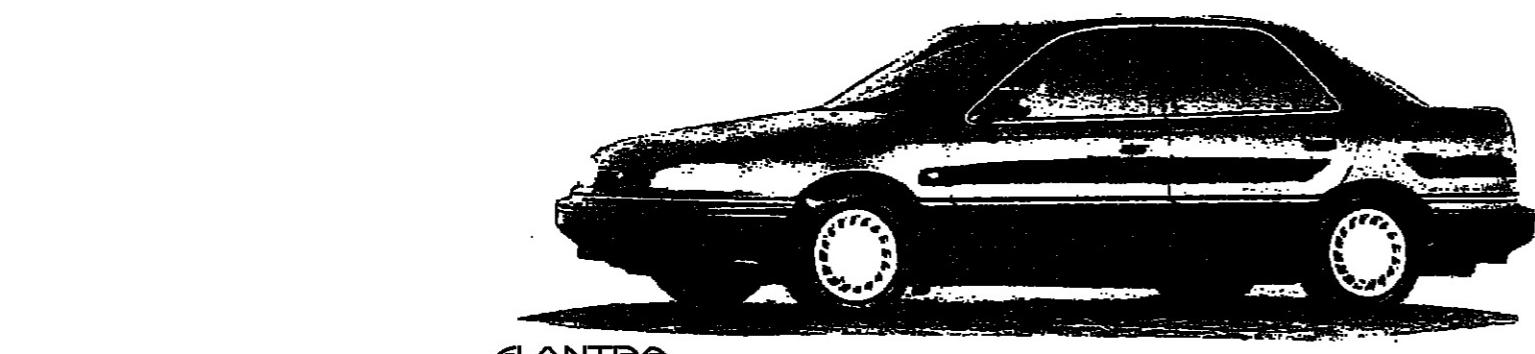
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Tel: 773111-19

Anglican Church Tel: 630851, Tel: 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771351.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 652561.

St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751.

Assyrian International Church Tel: 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 624371.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 623824, 654922.

Church of the Nazarene Tel: 675691.

Church of the Redeemer ... Tel: 638526.

Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr
(Sunrise) Dhuhr
Asr
Magrib
Isha

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy, and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellieh, Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757

Ferranese Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 622541.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 8 / 18

Aqaba 16 / 27

Deserts 6 / 20

Jordan Valley 14 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Dr. Mohammad Al Nahwi | 693925 | Khalidh pharmacy | 985417 |
| Dr. Khalid Mu'addi | 743200 | Radio Jordan | 774111 |
| Dr. Ghazi Abu Shukr | 524205 | Water Authority | 680100 |
| Dr. Ali Al Zaghoul | 651140 | Jordan Electricity Authority .. | 815615 |
| Firat pharmacy | 778336 | Electric Power | 636381 |
| Al Asmaa pharmacy | 637053 | RJ Flight Information | 08-53200 |
| Nairokh pharmacy | 623672 | Ocean Air Int'l. Airport | 08-53200 |
| Al Salam pharmacy | 636730 | Princess Bassas Hospital | 0227555 |
| Yacoub pharmacy | 644945 | Great Catholic Hospital | 0227227 |
| Shmeissani pharmacy | 637660 | Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital | 02347100 |
| Nairokh pharmacy | 623672 | Princess Haya Hospital | 02314111 |
| Najib pharmacy | 847632 | Al-Sina Hospital | 09986732 |
| ZARQA: | (--) | Al-Hikma Modern Hospital | 09980990 |
| Dr. Rajah Saqr | (--) | Queen Alia Hospital | 09983323 |
| | | Queen National Hospital | 09980260 |

EMERGENCIES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Food Control Centre | 637111 |
| Civil Defence Department | 661111 |
| Civil Defense Immediate Rescue | 630341 |
| Civil Defence Emergency | 199 |
| Rescue Police | [92, 62]111, 637777 |
| Fire Brigade | 851228 |
| Blood Bank | 775121 |
| Traffic Police | 843402 |
| Maltese J. Amman | 6424412 |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 642362 |
| Maltese, J. Amman | 636174 |
| Shakirah Hospital | 661114 |
| Shakirah Hospital | 669131 |
| University Hospital | 843845 |
| AI-Musheer Hospital | 6672279 |
| The Islamic, Abdali | 66612737 |
| Al-Abi, Abdal | 6641646 |
| Italian Al-Muhajireen | 7771013 |
| Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh | 77511126 |
| Army, Marka | 8916115 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 686100 |
| Amal Hospital | 661101 |
| ZARQA: | (--) |
| Albadil Telephone Repairs | 623101 |
| Albadil Telephone Repairs | 661101 |
| Jordan Television | 773111 |

HOSPITALS

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| AMMAN: | |
| Hussein Medical Centre | 813813/32 |
| Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm | 6442816 |
| Al-Kilbi Maternity, J. Amm | 6424412 |
| Maltese, J. Amman | 636174 |
| Shakirah Hospital | 661114 |
| Shakirah Hospital | 669131 |
| University Hospital | 843845 |
| AI-Musheer Hospital | 6672279 |
| The Islamic, Abdali | 66612737 |
| Al-Abi, Abdal | 6641646 |
| Italian Al-Muhajireen | 7771013 |
| Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh | 77511126 |
| Army, Marka | 8916115 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 686100 |
| Amal Hospital | 661101 |
| ZARQA: | (--) |
| Albadil Telephone Repairs | 623101 |
| Albadil Telephone Repairs | 661101 |
| Jordan Television | 773111 |

ARRIVALS

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
| 06:15 | Asaba (Niger) |
| 06:30 | Moscat, Abu Dhabi (UAE) |
| 06:30 | Karachi, Dubai (UAE) |
| 06:30 | Doha, Bahrain (BHR) |
| 17:35 | London (GBR) |
| 17:45 | Cairo (EGY) |
| 17:45 | Frankfort (AZ) |
| 20:00 | Vienna (AUT) |

FOR THE TRAVELLER

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | |
| This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified. | |
| 06:15 | Damascus (SYR) |
| 06:45 | Agadez, Niamey (NIG) |
| 06:45 | Abuja (NGR) |
| 06:45 | Asuncion (PAR) |
| 06:45 | Port of Spain (TRN) |
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Croatian...
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(Terminal 2)

prices

new aid of \$4.3 billion from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial states could start flowing.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said his support was stronger than expected and matched Western hopes. France hailed the outcome as a victory for democratic reform.

The White House called the referendum results "very encouraging."

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said President Bill Clinton was to call Mr. Yeltsin.

"Obviously the results coming out of Russia, they're preliminary but they're very encouraging," she said. "We'll wait to see the final results and I expect the president will talk to Yeltsin at some point."

Mr. Myers said Mr. Clinton plans to discuss his aid package for Russia in a meeting with some Democratic congressional leaders Tuesday.

"It is already clear the outcome of the referendum gives the president the necessary legal basis

Home News



PRIME MINISTER Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received at his office Monday Admiral Jacques Laxcade, chief of staff of the French Armed Forces in the presence of the assistant chief of staff for administration of the Jordanian Armed Forces and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Baudard. Discussion at the

meeting covered Franco-Jordanian cooperation in military affairs, particularly in Air Force Training programmes. Adm. Laxcade later left Amman at the end of his several day visit to Jordan. He was seen off by the French ambassador and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Abdul Hafez Marai Al Kaabneh

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional meeting opened here Monday to discuss the prospect of expanding the operational capabilities of Arab airlines.

A spokesman for Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, which is hosting the meeting, said that the two-day discussion is intended to focus on the idea of enabling double jet-engine aircraft owned by Arab airlines to make trans-oceanic flights safely.

Attending the meetings are representatives of airlines in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan, Algeria, Libya, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to Gulf Air.

The spokesman, Jihad Irshaid,

RJ vice president of operations, said the meeting was organised by the Arab Air Carriers Association to help boost the operations of Arab airlines around the world.

RJ has already conducted this programme on its Airbus aircraft and was followed by Kuwaiti Airlines, Egypt Air and Gulf Air, said Capt. Irshaid.

He said questions related to training personnel and pilots, as well as maintenance of such aircraft will be discussed at the meetings, also attended by representatives of the American Boeing aircraft company.

"They could argue that one does not have to have a developed economy to ensure that detainees are not tortured," noted the expert. "Nor do economic difficulties justify the imposition of ridiculous laws and regulations in total disregard for basic human dignity."

As an example, the expert cited the case of some countries where a woman complaining of rape has to produce at least four male witnesses to support her charge before the authorities would accept the case. "What does economy have to do with it?" asked the expert.

The Arab group at the conference is expected to present complaints about Israel's arbitrary measures against the Palestinians living under its occupation.

The United States administration has said that the Palestinians could raise the issue in Vienna with a view to securing Israeli actions to improve the human rights situation in the occupied territories, but neither Washington nor the conference itself is likely to entertain any motion for condemning the Jewish state, diplomats say.

"The whole exercise is aimed at conducting a comprehensive review of the international human rights situation in all its perspectives, including the philosophy of respect of human rights," said a diplomat.

"Singing out and censuring countries is not on the agenda."

AMMAN (Petra) — Executive President of Najah University in Nablus on the Israeli occupied West Bank Bahjat Al Masri said here Monday that Palestinian universities are in financial difficulty because of the deteriorating economic situation in the occupied lands. The universities are also facing a serious shortage in teaching staff since the Israeli authorities deported a large number of them, said Dr. Al Masri who was speaking following the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Council held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

Mohammad Sagr, president of the Islamic University in Gaza, said that the AAU Council has decided to send a delegation to the Marj Al Zuhour area in southern Lebanon where Palestinians expelled by Israel have been stranded since December.

"We expect fulfilment of the promises he (Yeltsin) made before the referendum," reformist Deputy Lev Ponomaryov told a news conference. "The main thing is the new draft constitution."

Mr. Khasbulatov said the referendum had split society and weakened Russia. "Apart from this setback for the state, this referendum decides absolutely nothing," he said.

He bitterly attacked the pro-Yeltsin television and radio coverage, comparing the president's media side Mikhail Politov, to Hitler's propaganda chief Josef Goebbels.

"Society can no longer tolerate this terrorism of the news media," Mr. Khasbulatov said.

Mr. Politov ran back with a fierce statement. "Having lost the referendum outright, the supporters of barrack-room communism have begun looking for scapegoats," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin's success reassured traders in world markets fearful of more turmoil in Russia had the result been less clearcut.

Germany said the vote meant new aid of \$4.3 billion from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial states could start flowing.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said his support was stronger than expected and matched Western hopes. France hailed the outcome as a victory for democratic reform.

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AMMAN (Petra) — Executive President of Najah University in Nablus on the Israeli occupied West Bank Bahjat Al Masri said here Monday that Palestinian universities are in financial difficulty because of the deteriorating economic situation in the occupied lands. The universities are also facing a serious shortage in teaching staff since the Israeli authorities deported a large number of them, said Dr. Al Masri who was speaking following the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Council held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

Mohammad Sagr, president of the Islamic University in Gaza, said that the AAU Council has decided to send a delegation to the Marj Al Zuhour area in southern Lebanon where Palestinians expelled by Israel have been stranded since December.

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Mr. Khasbulatov said the referendum had split society and weakened Russia. "Apart from this setback for the state, this referendum decides absolutely nothing," he said.

He bitterly attacked the pro-Yeltsin television and radio coverage, comparing the president's media side Mikhail Politov, to Hitler's propaganda chief Josef Goebbels.

"Society can no longer tolerate this terrorism of the news media," Mr. Khasbulatov said.

Mr. Politov ran back with a fierce statement. "Having lost the referendum outright, the supporters of barrack-room communism have begun looking for scapegoats," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin's success reassured traders in world markets fearful of more turmoil in Russia had the result been less clearcut.

Germany said the vote meant new aid of \$4.3 billion from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial states could start flowing.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said his support was stronger than expected and matched Western hopes. France hailed the outcome as a victory for democratic reform.

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Jordan Times

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Licence to spy

THE Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) is operating in the U.S. as a government within a government. This much was revealed recently when police in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas have disclosed that ADL has been running a massive nationwide intelligence-gathering operation against a wide spectrum of political groups operating in the U.S. Included in these groups are not only Arab American organisations but also the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) and Greenpeace as well as scores of others. This belated discovery came on the heels of the equally shocking revelation less than a year ago that AIPAC, another major Jewish Organisation based in the U.S. capital city, was also conducting a secret espionage operation against several American establishments and personalities. For these purposes, the two Zionist agencies recruited a string of police officers and put them on their payrolls. But what adds insult to injury was the equally damaging disclosure that the information gathered by these two ostensibly American groups were passed to foreign countries including Israel and South Africa. The extent of the Jewish espionage within the U.S. can be best illustrated by the fact that ADL alone kept secret files on no less than 950 political and cultural groups and more than 12,000 U.S. citizens presumably protected under the U.S. Constitution from such illegal acts.

It remains to be seen what the local and federal justice departments intend to do about these clearly illegal actions. In the meanwhile, though, what should be on the minds of Americans now is whether these two presumably charitable organisations would continue to enjoy their tax-exempt status under which they have been able to gather tax-deductible contributions and pass them on to finance their operations. The broader concern should be whether these two sister Jewish establishments should continue to be licensed by local and federal authorities after being caught flouting U.S. and state laws in their most sensitive areas.

There is nothing more serious than conducting espionage activities on nationals within a country. ADL and AIPAC have both abused their privileges and violated the trust that state and federal governments have had in them as essentially charitable agencies engaged in benign activities. If the two establishments escape U.S. justice scot-free despite the damaging information about them, then we have a right to question the integrity of American justice, its fairness and even-handedness. This is not the first time that Jewish Americans have been caught spying on their own country in the service of Israel. The case of Johnathan Pollard several years ago still rings loud in everybody's memory. Pollard spied on the U.S. military and supplied the information to the Israelis. Ever since the infamous Rosenberg case in the early fifties, the case history of Israel in the context of espionage is full of both publicised and confidential reports involving American Jews spying for Israel. Only by taking firm action against the most recent examples of this spying can there be an effective end to this dangerous phenomenon.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ON THE eve of the resumption of the ninth round of Arab-Israel peace talks, we find the Arab parties in closer coordination than ever before said Al Dustour Arabic daily Monday. The paper noted that such a coordination constitutes a positive element, contributing to the success of the peace negotiations. Furthermore, the talks this time are being held for the first time under the sponsorship of the Clinton administration which ought to be given a chance to honour its commitments and to keep its promises of playing an active role in the peace talks. It said that the Israelis also have offered some promises, albeit ambiguous, concerning measures to create a suitable atmosphere for the negotiations, especially with regard to deportation policies and the improvement of conditions for the Palestinian people under occupation rule. It said that though we realise the immense difficulties to be encountered in the talks, and the obstacles that are still to be overcome, we do recognise the role which Washington ought to play if the peace process is to make a headway. As we realise that this could be the last chance for peace that could be acceptable to the future generations, said the paper, we remain optimistic and holding on to our legitimate rights. It said that the Arabs are also hopeful that the solid stand and collective efforts can help achieve a settlement and peace based on U.N. resolutions and the international legitimacy.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday accused the major world powers of plotting to annihilate the Islamic Nation. Citing the ongoing events in the Bosnia-Herzegovina, Khaled Mahadin said that hardly a day passes by without an announcement in London, Washington, Paris and Moscow that force could be used to end the Serbian aggression on the Muslim people of former Yugoslavia. But the fact is that these capitals are doing nothing to stem the Serbian onslaught and alleviate the sufferings of children, women and old people, said the writer, he said the U.S. is capable of doing something to end the conflict without waiting for approval from its European allies. The European and the Americans are only interested in rebuilding the war-torn country for the benefit of its non-Muslim inhabitants and not in saving innocent lives, charged the writer. He said that the Europeans and the Americans, who are so quick to flex their muscles in northern and southern Iraq, are reluctant to end the barbarism of the Serbian forces.

The View from Fourth Circle

Never again, and again, and again ...

By Rami G. Khouri

By a great historical coincidence, this week we have been able to juxtapose several contemporary and past incidents that speak much about the real state of human political morality. In the United States and some parts of Europe, there has been dramatic remembrance of the holocaust and the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto 50 years ago, all of which has been commemorated by the opening of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. By all accounts that I have seen on television and read about, this is a chilling monument. The holocaust never fails to strike human beings' deepest fears, vulnerabilities and emotions — as it should — for rarely in history has so much cruelty and inhuman violence been unleashed against such helpless victims. We keep hearing the hallmark words that are a historical verdict on the holocaust — "never again" — words that are supposed to seal this as an aberrant episode that cannot and must not be repeated because of the extent and vigilance of our moral consciousness. "Never again," we hear, and all decent human beings nod in solemn accord and confirmation.

"If the threats emanating from ... conflicts ever become too grave, if they should threaten the comforts and vital resources of the dominant cultures of our world, we can expect a massive and barbaric military response."

But there is something that bothers me about the moral solemnity of the holocaust remembrance, something that tells me that the distinction we make between history and contemporary humanity is somehow not honest, perhaps not really valid, or maybe it simply is not working as it should. For while much of the western world, and especially the United States, rightly remembers the moral savagery and the inhumanity of the holocaust, the world witnesses current situations in which humanity is savaged and morality is deferred on a scale that is not as grotesque as the holocaust in conceptual or numerical terms, but is gruesome and chilling in its own right.

The brutality of the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the situation in Iraq and the status of southern Sudan are three cases in point that need to be juxtaposed against the rhetoric and the moral fabric of contemporary human society. To the credit of most commentators and politicians in the western world, especially in the United States, we hear many voices today questioning whether humankind has really absorbed the lessons of the holocaust. These voices ask: How can we say we have learned the lessons of the holocaust if we stand by and allow the carnage in Bosnia to continue?

To this, I would add: Bosnia is only one example among several others, such as Iraq and southern Sudan. The juxtaposition of today's mass human suffering and wholesale genocide of entire societies and ethnic groups against the historical events of the

holocaust is somehow ineffective because clearly humankind seems willing to allow mass death and suffering to continue in societies that are deemed to be peripheral, expendable, or unimportant. The real, valid and disturbing historical comparison is as follows: When the Nazi genocide against the Jews started in Europe half a century ago, the western world acted with much the same lassitude that the world shows today for the mass deaths taking place in Bosnia, Sudan or Iraq.

The holocaust happened because western societies then did not act with sufficient force to stop the mass killing of Jews, gypsies and others whom the Nazis had targeted. The really valid test of morality vis-a-vis the holocaust is not what the world thinks of it today, but what the world did about it in the 1930s and early 1940s. It did very little, until Nazi expansionism and Japanese militarism threatened the geopolitical status quo in Europe, Russia, and the Pacific.

The dramatic moral fury that the world exhibits today vis-a-vis the holocaust is partly and rightly an attempt to atone for the omissions and sins of the past, to recognise that the failures of the past were grave and unconscionable, and should not be repeated. But they are being repeated today, with equal moral callousness, in Europe and the Middle East. It is estimated that over 100,000 Iraqi children have died in the last year because of the nutritional and health impact of the embargo against Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese are dying before our eyes. One hears the phrase "never again" uttered by well-intentioned people whose political actions affirm otherwise. "Again and again" is perhaps a more accurate historical and moral verdict on humankind's capacity to confront the spectre of mass death at the hands of fellow human beings.

The historical lesson is clear, if ever so grim: If human beings wish to kill other human beings in massive numbers, the rest of the world appears willing to watch the carnage, perhaps even to derive geo-strategic and political gains from it. The criteria of historical and contemporary lassitude appear very evident now. Marginalised societies and cultures will be allowed to drown in their own blood if they are deemed peripheral to the survival and sustenance of other, more important societies. The Jews and gypsies of Europe were peripheral to the western world half a century ago, and the suffering and vulnerable communities that suffer before our eyes today are, apparently, deemed equally peripheral to our world and to our human conscience.

This is perhaps the most gruesome lesson of the end of the cold war that we have to deal with, and live with. It seems acceptable, if unfortunate, that hundreds of thousands of Arabs or Bosnian Muslims or others should die, because these are peripheral people, fringe cultures and expendable communities that are judged to be tangential to the life quality of the other people who live in the Middle East, Europe, or the North Atlantic rim. Here, perhaps, is the first rule of the "new world order" that we are asked to endure, if not to embrace. The world is imperfect, unjust and full of brutal self-interest. It speaks of desire to see a thousand points of light, but it must simultaneously endure a thousand points of brutality and carnage.

The calls for political and military action to stop the suffering

and the dying in Bosnia, Iraq, Sudan and other endangered cultures are widespread, sincere, and urgent. But the political and military action to redress the visible wrongs is slow, insufficient, and carefully measured in the criteria of minimal risk. The moral concern and communal outrage that we express and that we hear expressed by others is vastly outweighed by our political caution and perhaps by a measure of moral exhaustion. The verdict is compelling: Peripheral people can suffer, and unimportant cultures can die. It happened in central Europe half a century ago and it is happening in other parts of the world today.

We can be sure of one thing, however, if the threats emanating from these conflicts ever become too grave, if they should threaten the comforts and vital resources of the dominant cultures of our world, we can expect a massive and barbaric military response.

"While much of the western world, rightly, remembers the moral savagery and the inhumanity of the holocaust, the world witnesses current situations in which humanity is savaged and morality is deferred on a scale that is not as grotesque as the holocaust in conceptual or numerical terms, but is gruesome and chilling in its own right."

Muslims. In other words, peripheral cultures can kill one another; they may disturb the conscience of the rest of the world, but they should not threaten the contentment of the world's central powers or upset the balance of regional power in areas such as the Middle East.

These are grim and disturbing concepts, but they appear to be validated by the facts of our own contemporary actions, just as they pertained to mid-century European history. We who inhabit this region and deal with western powers in a variety of ways should take the time to ponder these points, and to draw appropriate conclusions. It is perhaps comforting to many that the world should, in retrospect, expand such intense moral and political energy on remembering the horrors of the holocaust. But this was little comfort to the victims of the holocaust half a century ago, just as it is laughable to the victims of the world's current wars and mass deprivations. Again and again, we hear the cries of "never again" drowned out by the screams of those who die today, within earshot of our moral exhortations, and in the shadow of our compassion for the victims of the past.

© RAMI G. KHOURI

A charge of massive spying

By Jane Hunter



organisations and search their garbage. He, and the helpers he hired to handle the work load, were paid with ADL funds.

Mr. Bullock sorted the thousands of organisations and individuals into categories:

"Arab," "Right," "Skins" (Skinheads), "Pinkos" and "ANC," the African National Congress.

The court documents released last week allege that in the late 1980s Mr. Bullock and Tom Gerard gathered and sold information on anti-apartheid activists and ANC supporters to agents of the South African government, netting \$15,000 over several years.

It was not immediately clear whether officials intend to pursue the allegations they leaked earlier this year that Mr. Tom Gerard sold police intelligence to Israel.

During court proceedings in February, San Francisco Assistant District Attorney John Dwyer said that the Gerard-Bullock files contained the name of one of three naturalised Palestinian citizens seized by Israel in January as Hamas "paymasters."

The San Francisco Examiner reported that a source family, with the case had identified the named man as Mohammad Jarad of Chicago.

The documents indicate that much of the information police have recovered so far came from confidential government records.

San Francisco authorities believe that the ADL gained access to the records through cooperating police officers in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and at least four other cities, as well as San Francisco.

Police in San Francisco and many other localities are strictly forbidden to spy on non-violent political groups, as is the FBI. But Mr. Gerard has admitted that, when new regulations against police spying in San Francisco took effect in 1991, he, Mr. Bullock and ADL officials met local FBI officials and Bullock — who has been the ADL's paid agent since 1984 — began supplying the FBI with information.

The FBI paid Mr. Bullock. His stock in trade was to infiltrate

ADL was not involved in the sale of dossiers to South Africa. Mr. Gerard abruptly retired and fled to the Philippines (which has no extradition treaty with the U.S.) when the investigation began last year.

San Francisco District Attorney Ario Smith said two weeks ago that ADL employees could be charged with a variety of felonies, including receiving confidential files, eavesdropping, conspiracy and tax violations. The ADL could face 38 charges for failing to declare and pay taxes on Mr. Bullock's pay. The organisation paid Mr. Bullock almost \$170,000 between 1985 and 1993. The money was funnelled through the bank account of Bruce L. Hochman, a Beverly Hills attorney and a former president of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles.

Mr. Hochman told a San Francisco police investigator Mr. Bullock would penetrate organisations and needed this arrangement to be distanced from ADL. Mr. Hochman acknowledged that he had been paying Mr. Bullock for about 25 years. Until 1990 Mr. Hochman was a federal prosecutor.

The ADL, which insists it had done nothing wrong, could also lose the tax-exempt status that protects its \$32 million budget if the government determines it has strayed from its stated mission of studying anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi organisations and protecting all minorities from bigotry and discrimination.

The raids on the ADL come less than a year after a former employee of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) revealed that it maintained a secret espionage unit to compile information on critics of Israel, especially Jewish peace activists — Middle East International.

AMMAN — Women activists and political analysts see the women's movement as one of the factors that have contributed to weakening their status in Jordan.

Researcher and writer on women's issues Subair Al Tal says: "the situation women are in is a reflection of the women's movement and the crisis in the women's movement is a reflection of the status of women in society."

Feminists accuse the women's movement of concentrating on politics and overlooking women's issues, for which the movement was originally established.

Asma Khader, who was recently elected president of the Women's Union in Jordan, says the strong relationship between women's organisations and women activists on the one hand, and these organisations and activist and political parties on the other influences the path of the women's movement, giving priority to the political over the social.

Ms. Tal affirms that the women's movement was brought to life by political parties and was not the result of a widespread demand by women. Thus, she maintains, women's organisations and activists, who are affiliated with political parties, fight for women issues only to the extent that their parties are willing to fight for them.

Historically, Ms. Tal says, women's rights have been the last item on the agenda of political parties and the first issue to be conceded in order to achieve other goals.

Ms. Khader and Ms. Tal further believe that women leaders usually use the women's movement as a mechanism to promote the ideas of their political parties and to increase their popularity.

The head of the Jordanian Democratic Women's League and member of the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, Majida Al Masri, considers, however, the relationship between political parties and the women's movement to be a positive phenomenon. She believes that women's concerns and problems cannot be isolated from those of society at large. "It is a matter of democratic rights," she says. "Only by linking these issues," she maintains, "could we improve the current conditions."

Jordan has a few hundred women's associations, five democratic women's organisations which belong to different political

parties and two women's unions. Ms. Tal says the fragmentation of the movement into so many groups, partly due to political differences, weakens the movement tremendously.

Ms. Masri, however, does not perceive the existence of different women's organisations as a problem as long as a union, that would include all women regardless of their political affiliations and ideologies, is formed. "Our first priority is to form a united movement that represents all women ... This will make us a strong force," she says.

Although Ms. Khader and Ms. Masri are optimistic about achieving such a union, analysts say that its formation, in the short run, is doubtful if women leaders do not change their working methodology; if they do not move beyond self-promotion, for themselves and their parties, and beyond quarrelling over who gets what seats.

Ms. Khader believes the existence of a number of women's organisations is not negative, it is part of democracy and pluralism. But, she maintains, these organisations need to stop their internal bickering and to learn to work in harmony.

The absence of a "theoretical framework" to liberate women has also contributed to the weakening of the women's movement says Ms. Tal. "Individuals and organisation in the women's movement all raise the same slogans but they do not have philosophical backgrounds for the liberation of women," she says.

Ms. Khader agrees with Ms. Tal, explaining that the lack of a theoretical framework led the movement to "raise slogans without translating them into action." Ms. Khader hopes that the women's movement will soon adopt human rights as their theoretical framework.

In addition, the three women interviewed emphasised that the absence of political freedoms in the past and interference in and suppression of the women's movement are also contributing factors to the debilitated status of the movement.

Young women are not attracted to a movement led

totally by middle aged women who have held the same position for decades. Ms. Tal said, thus adding to the isolation of the movement.

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1993 7

| AMERICAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| BOUNDED BANK CIPPER - JORDAN - BEIRUT - LEBANON | | | |
| TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663178 | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 26/04/1993 | | | |
| COMPANY'S NAME | | | |
| | TRADED VOLUME | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE |
| | JD | JD | JD |
| ARMED BANK | 26,091 | 1.99 | 2.00 |
| MIDDLE EASTERN BANK | 135,512 | 4.850 | 4.900 |
| MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK | 7,261 | 25.000 | 24.900 |
| INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK | 1,420 | 1.720 | 1.710 |
| JORDAN EQUITY BANK | 13,420 | 1.420 | 1.420 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK | 10,061 | 3.820 | 3.820 |
| JORDAN LEADERSHIP BANK | 2,420 | 2.420 | 2.420 |
| JORDAN PENSION BANK | 2,420 | 2.420 | 2.420 |
| JORDAN PHARMA INSURANCE | 528 | 4.400 | 4.400 |
| JORDAN REAL INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 11,517 | 3.300 | 3.280 |
| JORDAN REAL INVESTMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD | 25,772 | 5.610 | 5.500 |
| JORDAN RAILWAY CORPORATION-JORDAN | 49,917 | 1.650 | 1.670 |
| JORDAN PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK | 3,420 | 1.450 | 1.500 |
| JORDAN PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE | 22,601 | 1.700 | 1.700 |
| JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE | 3,956 | 2.630 | 2.620 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 77,949 | 4.110 | 3.920 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 4,233 | 2.950 | 2.920 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER | 3,165 | 3.300 | 3.450 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL INDUSTRIALS | 14,949 | 2.200 | 2.200 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES | 3,738 | 6.820 | 6.950 |
| JORDAN TOURIST & SPA COMPLEX | 2,774 | 0.450 | 0.430 |
| JORDAN TRADING & SERVICES | 49,869 | 4.100 | 4.100 |
| JORDAN TRADING & SERVICES | 25,410 | 0.800 | 0.800 |
| JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 48,800 | 0.740 | 0.800 |
| JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER | 4,950 | 1.770 | 1.800 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIAL EQUIP. MFG. & TRADE | 24,320 | 2.280 | 2.280 |
| JORDAN EAST & CONDOMINIUM HOTELS | 1,820 | 1.860 | 1.860 |
| JORDAN CHEMICALS REFINERY | 9,178 | 10.430 | 10.430 |
| JORDAN CHEMICALS & PLASTICS | 3,710 | 2.420 | 2.420 |
| JORDAN CHEMICALS & PLASTICS TRADE | 28,450 | 6.960 | 6.970 |
| JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY | 14,888 | 13.800 | 13.500 |
| JORDAN GENERAL INVESTMENT | 32,666 | 0.800 | 0.810 |
| JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING | 49,796 | 2.190 | 2.180 |
| JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING | 1,554 | 0.570 | 0.560 |
| JORDAN STEEL INDUSTRIES | 23,518 | 0.870 | 0.910 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIES | 17,480 | 5.400 | 5.220 |
| JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES | 10,470 | 1.800 | 1.800 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCHES/JORDAN | 13,254 | 1.280 | 1.280 |
| JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JORDAN | 44,656 | 0.620 | 0.620 |
| JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JORDAN | 14,840 | 1.200 | 1.200 |
| JORDAN CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING | 378,748 | 11.400 | 11.200 |
| JORDAN CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING | 94,946 | 4.580 | 4.620 |
| JORDAN KEMALT CO. FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD. | 77,699 | 2.950 | 2.950 |
| UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES | 223,777 | 6.350 | 5.350 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 4,834,713 | | |
| NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET | 329,050 | | |
| TRADED VOLVES IN THE PARALLEL MARKET | 43,682 | | |

Financial Jordonian Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

| U.S. Dollar in International Markets | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Currency | New York Close Date 23/4/93 | Tokyo Close Date 26/4/93 | | |
| Sterling Pound* | 1.5745 | 1.5739 | | |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.5837 | 1.5739 | | |
| Swiss Franc | 1.4285 | 1.4260 | | |
| French Franc | 5.3480 | 5.3065 ** | | |
| Japanese Yen | 110.73 | 110.55 | | |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2320 | 1.2417 ** | | |
| * USD per SGD ** European Opening 26/4/93 L.M. GATT | | | | |
| Eurocurrency Interest Rates | Date: 26/4/1993 | | | |
| Currency | 1 MONTH | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
| U.S. Dollar | 3.12 | 3.18 | 3.43 | |
| Sterling Pound | 5.81 | 5.87 | 5.93 | 6.06 |
| Deutsche Mark | 7.87 | 7.68 | 7.37 | 6.75 |
| Swiss Franc | 5.06 | 4.87 | 4.62 | 4.44 |
| French Franc | 8.50 | 8.12 | 7.75 | 7.37 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.18 | 3.15 | 3.21 | 3.21 |
| European Currency Unit | 8.62 | 8.50 | 8.25 | 7.75 |

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

| Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin | | |
|---|-----------------|---------|
| Date: 26/4/1993 | | |
| Currency | Bid | Offer |
| U.S. Dollar | 0.6810 | 0.6830 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0762 | 1.0816 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4321 | 0.4343 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.4773 | 0.4797 |
| French Franc | 0.1280 | 0.1286 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.6168 | 0.6199 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.3845 | 0.3864 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.0942 | 0.0947 |
| Italian Lira* | 0.0459 | 0.0461 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.02086 | 0.02096 |
| For 100 | | |
| Other Currencies | Date: 26/4/1993 | |
| Currency | Bid | Offer |
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7850 | 1.8200 |
| Lebanese Lira* | 0.05836 | 0.04000 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1813 | 0.1824 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 2.2240 | 2.2740 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1843 | 0.1860 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.1950 | 0.2150 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7350 | 1.7670 |
| UAE Dirham | 0.1843 | 0.1860 |
| Greek Drachma* | 0.3138 | 0.3438 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4300 | 1.4600 |
| For 100 | | |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| U.S. \$1,000 costs | 1.2580/85 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.5685/95 | Deutschmarks |
| | 1.7640/50 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.4190/200 | Swiss francs |
| | 32.35/39 | Belgian francs |
| | 2.2950/5000 | French francs |
| | 1470/1472 | Italian lire |
| | 110.13/18 | Japanese yen |
| | 7.1780/880 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.6325/425 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 6.0200/300 | Danish crowns |
| One sterling | \$1.5935/45 | |
| One ounce of gold | \$349.70/350.20 | |

Growth in Asia to remain world's fastest

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Asian economies grew by almost eight per cent in 1992, partly thanks to a steep rise in China's growth rate, and the region will remain the world's fastest-growing this year, the IMF said Monday.

The International Monetary Fund revised downwards its growth forecasts for the world economy for 1993, and warned that even these figures may have to be reviewed if progress is not made in restructuring economies and curbing protectionism.

"A failure to complete the

round would deprive the world of the benefits of further liberalisation and would risk aggravating protectionist pressures, which would seriously harm all countries," it noted.

The report warned that the boost in economic activity in 1992, against overall world economic growth of just 1.8 per cent, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its semi-annual World Economic Outlook report.

"A dramatic rise in China's growth rate in 1992, owing to strong increases in fixed investment, contributed to a substantial increase in regional trade and growth," the report said.

China's economy grew 12.8 per cent in 1992, and it is expected to be Asia's fastest-growing economy again this year, with gross domestic product growth of 8.5 per cent.

The share of China's exports going to other Asian countries rose from 39 per cent in 1985 to 57 per cent in 1991, and liberalisation of the trade and exchange systems in 1991 and foreign exchange liberalisation in 1992 helped China's economy.

But the report warned that the risk of overheating that, if not contained, could lead to macroeconomic instability and could jeopardise the reform process.

The report paid tribute to sound financial policies and structural reforms in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, which had "also contributed to the robust performance of the region."

"Economic conditions remain buoyant in the fastest-growing economies, but concerns about capacity constraints and overheating may require policies of financial restraint in several countries," the report added.

Thailand is expected to see its economy grow by 7.8 per cent this year after 7.5 per cent in 1992, the sharpest growth in the region after China, followed by Taiwan with 6.9 per cent, up from 6.4 per cent in 1992.

The operating result for 1992, at 235 million francs, was down by more than half on the 1991 figure of 499 million francs.

The company is currently in talks with banks with a view to increasing its share capital.

The company, which produces the Moulinex, Krups, Shan and Girba brands, operates with 13,700 employees, including 8,500 in France.

Fluctuations in exchange rates meant that consolidated sales ended 1.66 per cent down at 8.357 billion francs.

The operating result for 1992, at 235 million francs, was down by more than half on the 1991 figure of 499 million francs.

India's growth rate will rise to 4.6 per cent this year from 4.0 per cent in 1992, while that of Pakistan will fall to 4.9 per cent from 5.8 in 1992.

South Korea's growth rate is forecast to rise to 6.0 per cent from 4.7 per cent in 1992.

The company was trading in a "very unfavourable economic conjuncture," management said, pointing to a 0.9 per cent increase in consolidated sales of 8.218 billion francs at constant exchange rate.

It compared with a profit of 191 million francs in 1991.

The company was trading in a "very unfavourable economic conjuncture," management said, pointing to a 0.9 per cent increase in consolidated sales of 8.218 billion francs at constant exchange rate.

Sports

Davis Cup Singapore, S. Arabia promoted to Group 2

DOHA (Agencies) — Singapore and Saudi Arabia won the qualifying places from the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone Group three tournament which finished Sunday.

Singapore beat the United Arab Emirates 2-1 and Saudi Arabia beat Syria by the same score in their final matches.

Lebanon was third in the group which also involved Bahrain, Bangladesh and Qatar.

Saudi Arabia got off to a flying start against second from bottom Syria, as Badear Al Megayel beat Shefa Diab 6-3, 6-3.

But Syria made a fight of it when Kahian Malki came from behind to defeat Othman Al Enezi in three sets.

Megayel and Enezi then found themselves down in the Doubles to Ahmad Diab and Shefa Diab before clinching victory 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Singapore also had to stage a recovery operation against the United Arab Emirates, who were third in the eight-nation table at the start of the day and had an outside chance of qualifying themselves.

Manual Gayon them a perfect start beating Singapore's Mark Choy 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).

Chee Yen Chen then levelled the tie comfortably defeating Salem Dasmal 6-1, 6-1.

Chen and Wei Pin Choo then clinched a three set doubles to book their place in Group 2 next year.

Qatar finished at the bottom after going down 0-3 to Bahrain.

First round of NBA playoffs gets underway Thursday

By Chris Sheridan
The Associated Press

SUNDAY WAS SUPPOSED to be a day that mattered, a season-ending day featuring nationally televised games with playoff implications — Chicago Vs. New York for the best record in the east, Detroit Vs. New Jersey for the final spot in the east.

It turned into the exact opposite — a day of nine almost meaningless games, none with any influence on the opening round of the playoffs.

The playoff picture, or at least what was left of it, came into full focus Saturday night. Indiana beat Miami to clinch to final Eastern berth, and Charlotte, New Jersey and Atlanta all learned their playoff seedings before midnight.

All the Western Conference seedings were determined by Friday night.

The first round of the playoff gets underway Thursday night, and the action doesn't let up at least until mid-June. Here's a look ahead at the opening-round series, and how the teams did against each other in the regular season.

Eastern Conference

The Knicks have the best conference record and it looks like they'll make it to the second round fairly easily.

New York won the season series with Indiana three games to one, getting double-figure scoring from five players in each game. Patrick Ewing has a distinct advantage over Indiana centre Rik Smits and the Pacers just don't have the bulk to match up with New York's front line.

The big matchup in this series is between Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins, the top two scorers in the league. Wilkins outscored Jordan 34.8 to 32.8 in the teams' four matchups, but each team won two games. The key in the playoffs will be depth, and Chicago has the advantage in that area.

"You have to contain Nique, not let him get his 30, and keep Kevin Willis off the boards," Bulls forward Horace Grant said. "They're not a one-man show anymore."

In a matchup of two teams that ended the season going in opposite directions, Cleveland seems to have the advantage. The Cavaliers won 11 of their last 12, while the Nets lost 10 of their final 11 and have lost Kenny Anderson, Drazen Petrovic and Chris Dudley to injuries.

The season series was a 2-2 split, with no game decided by more than six points. A big factor in this series will be the injury to Anderson, which could allow Cavaliers point guard mark price to

dominate backup Rumeal Robinson.

"Just two weeks ago we were hoping to get into the playoffs. Now we're hoping to make some noise," Hornets coach Allan Bristow said.

Charlotte could do just that if it can carry the momentum from a five-game, season-ending winning streak into the playoffs. Boston won the season series three games to one, but the first three games were played in the season's first 60 days.

Western Conference

This series shapes up as possibly the biggest mismatch of the playoffs. The Suns finished 43 games over .500, the Lakers were four games below. Phoenix has been waiting all year for a chance to prove its regular-season dominance was no fluke, the Lakers had to fight all season to qualify for the eighth playoff berth for a second straight year.

Phoenix swept the season series 5-0, winning by 10, 16, 28, 15 and 1.

The Trail Blazers have dropped six wins from last year, when they went to the NBA finals and lost to Chicago, and Clyde Drexler has been slowed all year by hamstring problems. The Spurs, meanwhile, made one of the NBA's best turnarounds following the early-season firing of Jerry Tarkanian.

This season series was also a split, each team winning two games. This playoff series could turn out to be one of the best.

The Rockets swept the season series four games to none, with Hakeem Olajuwon posting a double-double in each game to average 21.3 points and 12.3 rebounds.

Not including its Sunday night game with San Antonio, Houston won 11 of its last 12 and 28 of its last 33 and has played extremely well since the season midpoint. The Clippers (41-41) finished at .500 to qualify for the second straight year, but they will have plenty of trouble against a bigger, more talented opponent.

Once again it's a matchup of two teams heading in opposite directions. The Supersonics finished at 55-27, an eight-win improvement over 1991-92. The Jazz were in the exact opposite direction, dropping eight wins from its 55-27 record of last season.

The season series was tied 2-2, with no game decided by more than 11 points. Sealine will try to benefit from the midseason acquisition of playoff veteran Sam Perkins while Utah will look to overcome its longstanding postseason problems (three wins in nine playoff series).

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Brian Clough steps down at Nottingham Forest

NOTTINGHAM (AP) — Brian Clough, who won two European Cup titles and numerous accolades in 18 years as manager of Nottingham Forest, is retiring at the end of the season. Forest chairman Fred Reacher announced Monday that Clough would stay at the helm for the team's two remaining games. Pressure on Clough to step down has mounted in recent weeks. Forest, next-to-last in the 22-team Premier League, is trying to stave off 1977.

Hunting Hawk takes Prix Greffulhe

PARIS (R) — Hunting Hawk, owned by Sheikh Mohammed and trained by the all-conquering Andre Fabre, ran out a fine winner of the Prix Greffulhe at Longchamp Sunday. Ridden by French champion Thierry Jarnet, Hunting Hawk beat Bigstone by a length and a half with stablemate Talloires a similar distance back in third. An unlucky loser of the Prix de Courcelles at the same track three weeks ago, Hunting Hawk made no mistake this time, getting into his stride quicker despite the extremely soft ground.

Korda, Lendl, Stich top three in Munich Open

MUNICH (AP) — Peter Korda, Ivan Lendl and Michael Stich are the top three seeds respectively for the \$300,000 BMW Open tennis tournament that starts in Munich Monday. Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine plays Cedric Pioline. Other notables in the

tournament include Andrei Cherkasov of Russia, Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic, Thomas Muster of Austria, and clay specialist Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina. Germany's 22-year-old Marc Goettler, who upset Perez-Roldan, world No. 2 Stefan Edberg and Lendl on his way to a surprise win at the Nice Open a week ago, is also to play in Munich.

Bulgaria suffers first boxing fatality

SOFIA (R) — An 18-year-old amateur lightweight died at the National Junior Championships in Bulgaria's first boxing fatality, sports officials said Monday. The championships were postponed for two weeks after Alexander Kostadinov, who was wearing a protective headguard, collapsed Sunday and died in hospital. The death came only weeks before the Amateur World Championships start in Tamper, Finland, May 7. Doctors said the boxer died from two brain hemorrhages but were waiting for the results of an autopsy.

Schuster heading home

BONN (AFP) — Germany's Bernd Schuster is set to rejoin his home town club Bayer Leverkusen after twelve years playing in Spain for Barcelona, Real Madrid, and Atletico Madrid. Schuster, 33, who won 21 caps for Germany before retiring from international football in 1986, has just broken his contract with Atletico Madrid. The midfield star hopes to complete the move Tuesday.

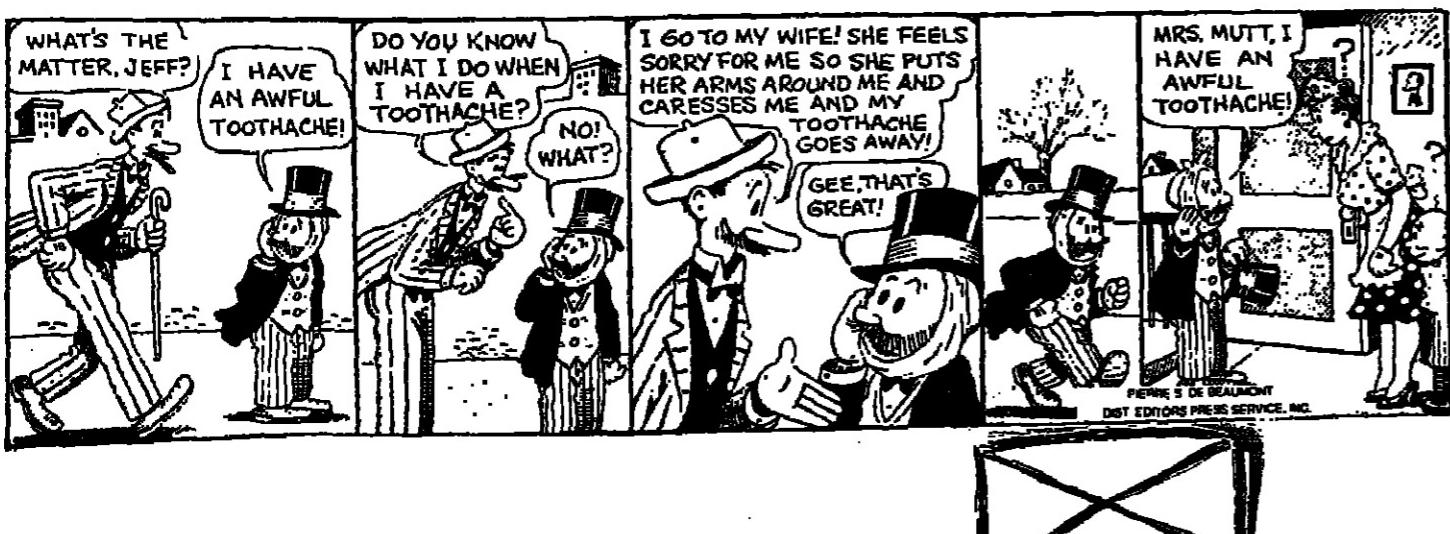
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



JORDAN SIXTH IN ASIAN BASKETBALL: Jordan's U-22 national basketball team settled for 6th place in the Asian Youth Basketball Championship in Hong Kong, after its 51-49 loss to Indonesia. Jordan had beaten Malaysia 60-45 in the first round but later lost the chance to qualify for the semifinal round when they surprisingly lost 75-65 to Japan. Jordan later beat Hong Kong 68-48. Taipei won the title after overcoming South Korea 80-77, while Japan finished third after scoring an 88-79 win over the Philippines.

Van Basten fails to ease Milan crisis

PARIS (AFP) — Italian champions AC Milan took another step toward turning a drama into a crisis by failing to win for the sixth straight league game Sunday.

Their goalless draw at lowly Udinese let neighbours Internazionale, who beat Anconet 3-0, get within four points and set up an exciting climax to the Serie A with five matches to play.

AC Milan were without Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard but welcomed back third Dutchman Marco van Basten in the second half for his first appearance since last Dec. 13.

Van Basten, who has been recovering from an ankle operation, showed a few deft touches. But Fabio Capello's team still suffered from start to finish of the game in front of 40,000 fans — nearly all of whom were urging a new upset for the European Championship Cup finalists.

Milan had a record 58-game unbeaten run ended by Parma on March 21 and have not won since. Their lead has been cut from 11 points a month ago and Inter have never had such high hopes of overtaking their once-invincible neighbours in the San Siro Stadium.

Inter, who are in turn unbeaten

in 13 games, had Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa, who scored twice, to thank for their win over relegated Ancona.

In recent weeks, Baggio has scored three goals in the UEFA Cup semi-final games against Paris St. Germain, one of Italy's goals in the 2-0 win over Estonia and another in Juventus's 3-1 win over AC Milan last weekend.

Cup Winners Cup finalists Parma are third with Juventus on points after beating AS Roma 3-1. Marco Osio scored twice in that game.

Lazio are also joint third on 34 points — five behind Inter — after Giuseppe Signori also got a last gasp penalty that took the Serie A's leading scorer's tally to 23.

In Belgium, where Anderlecht long ago secured the title, Seraina won the second division title to earn promotion.

The French and Spanish championships were given a weekend off as their national sides prepared for World Cup qualifiers Wednesday.



Lazio's Karl-Heinz Riedle (left) is tackled by Brazilian Carlos Dunca (centre) playing for Pescara during the Italian First Division match. In the background, Lazio's Massimiliano Allegri. Lazio won 2-1 (AP photo).

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ K 7 4
♥ J 7 3
♦ A K Q J 8
♣ K 6

WEST
♦ 6
♥ A K 9 8 5
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 8 5 4 3
♦ 8 7 3 2
♣ J 9 5

EAST
♦ A Q 8 5 3
♥ Q 4
♦ 7
♣ A Q 10 4

SOUTH
♦ J 10 9 8 5 3
♥ Q 4
♦ 7
♣ A Q 10 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

"Ah, Hastings, mon ami, it is a sad day when they try to fool me and get away with murder by concealing!" This was not a case involving mayhem that had occasioned such an outburst from the great Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, but rather an incident at the bridge club.

Their opponents had arrived at four spaces on a direct auction after North had opened the bidding with one no trump, and Poirot had attacked the king of hearts, to which Hastings had correctly fol-

lowed with the deuce. Declarer dropped the queen! "Of course, I realized from the outset that you would have contributed the two of hearts even had you held four cards in the suit—you know that I cannot abide count signals at trick one and insist that we show attitude: whether we want a continuation or not. Therefore, I realized that declarer's card could have been honest."

"As usual at such times, I put those little gray cells to work. Let's suppose that you held the ace-queen of clubs. Even if we could collect two club tricks, that would not be enough to defeat the contract. Declarer would then have been marked with the ace of spades and, at best, we would have to hope for an unexpected trump trick—unless, of course, we had a second heart trick coming and declarer was trying to take me in."

"Once that was clear, it was a simple matter to continue with the ace of hearts at trick two. Notice that I'd shifted to a minor suit,

declarer would have wrapped up 10 tricks with ease. As it was, down one was all he deserved for trying to, how you say, stretch the wool over my eyes."

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1993

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1993.

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Moon square Mercury and the oppositions to Neptune and Uranus won't provide you with the chances to get into the modern swing of things so hold on to those conservative routines. Be streamlined.

ARIES: March 21 to April 19 You now find you want to be off to new scenes and new personalities, but it is a day when satisfactory results would not follow in the long run.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your hunches are most inaccurate today and you would also be wise in double-check your judgment and make sure you understand conditions perfectly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find the outside world a pretty difficult and unsatisfactory place to be today so don't contact anyone who is apt to be in a bad humor.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You find whatever activities you had planned to engage in today can have elements you had not anticipated so be prepared to change your thinking.

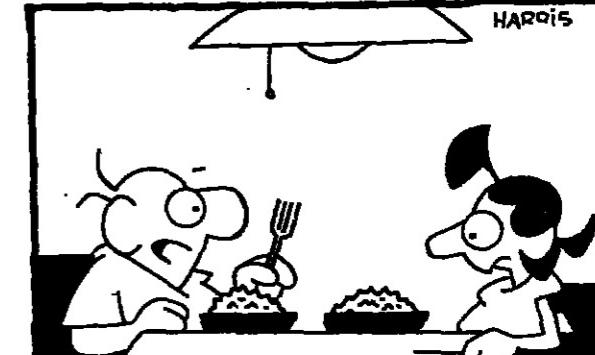
LEO: (July 22 August 21) This is not the day to commit yourself to any entertainment or amusements that are expensive or that have an element of risk associated with them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Friends and acquaintances could be a real disappointment to you this year.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try to steer clear of matters of a public or worldly nature and persons who are influential for they are not likely to be helpful to you this day.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris HARIS



"I thought I was supposed to serve it frozen. It's iceberg lettuce."

Palestinians head for bilaterals

(Continued from page 1)

territories within eight months," he added.

Mr. Hussein will take part for the first time in the negotiations since the peace talks were launched in October 1991.

Israel had barred him from the negotiating table amid fears that the status of "annexed" Arab East Jerusalem, where he lives, will be open for negotiations.

"I will attend certain sessions as part of the negotiating team led by Haidar Abdul Shafi and will also attend multilateral sessions," he said.

Hardline Palestinian groups have condemned the Palestinian decision to return to peace talks with Israel and called for a general strike in the West Bank and Gaza Tuesday.

An alliance of 10 groups said in a statement on Monday the peace talks were a threat to the Palestinian cause and to the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and vowed to continue attempts to stop them.

"The Palestinian decision to join the next round of talks constitutes a threat to our national rights, the uprising and the unity of our people," the statement

"All those Palestinians should be in their homes in the occupied

territories."

On the 30 exiles, he said they

would be the first batch in a phased release of all Palestinians

expelled from the occupied territories between 1967 and 1993.

Saeid Erakat, deputy chief of

the Palestinian delegation, said

the number of those expellees

was 2,119, including the 396

Palestinian expellees in South

Lebanon.

"This is under an agreement

reached with Israel through the

American side to reschedule the

return of all Palestinian deportees

since June 1967 and until the

present day," Dr. Erakat told the

Associated Press.

"All those Palestinians should be

in their homes in the occupied

territories."

SM

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nious

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Monday and Tuesday 2nd and 4 May 1993 - 8:00 p.m.

The Royal Cultural Centre

Wednesday 5 May 1993 - 4:00 p.m.

Yarmouk University - Irbid

Tickets for Amman performances will be sold for JD 7 each at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026

- Babtice, Tel. 661322

- Romero Restaurant, Tel. 644227

- Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100

- The American Center, Tel. 820101

- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

said.

It said leaders of the 10 groups had met and agreed to call a general strike in the West Bank and Gaza Tuesday.

They said they held the Palestinian negotiators and the PLO leadership responsible for "any negative consequences resulting from their participation in the peace talks."

Those people constitute only a minority of the Palestinians.

They do not represent us and any decision they make is not binding," the statement said.

They also called on the families of the Palestinian expellees in South Lebanon to hold rallies outside the homes of Palestinian negotiators to protest at their participation in the talks.

Among the 10 were two of the

main components of the PLO, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as well as the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad organisations and pro-Syrian groups based in Damascus.

But Mr. Arafat warned in a message broadcast to rallies Saturday and Sunday: "Those who are not on the political map today will not be on the geographical map tomorrow."

"We are going to the talks and keeping the heat on our enemies at the same time," the PLO leader said.

Washington also fears that increased violence in Israel and the occupied territories makes it more difficult to negotiate a solution to the fighting.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

that the United States would be a "full partner" in the talks, but declined to explain exactly what that meant.

Several factors have pushed Washington to become more active: first, Mr. Clinton, finishing a difficult 100 days in office, would undoubtedly like a foreign policy success, especially given the U.N.'s failure to stop the grim tragedy ripping apart Bosnia.

Washington also fears that increased violence in Israel and the occupied territories makes it more difficult to negotiate a solution to the fighting.

OIC takes tough step on Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

international norms."

"The tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina represents an open challenge to the world community, which should end the conflict and halt the Serbian onslaught lest it engulf the whole Balkan states," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Expressing hope that the Arab-Israeli peace talks which resume Tuesday would achieve concrete results, the minister said that Jordan had been striving to attain a lasting and peaceful settlement to the conflict and the Palestine problem.

Reiterating the Kingdom's total commitment to U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338, Dr. Abu Jaber said that the talks should result in the exchange of land for peace, the repatriation of the expellees and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

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Yousef Al-Nahas

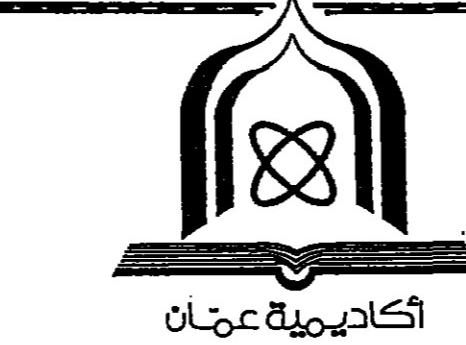
Dr. Omar Al-Shaikh
Diana Afrani
Khalil Akhal
Alia Snobar

Serene Shamerza Khorma - English
Rima Sba'i Khalifeh - French
Vera Hijazi - Art
Ghassan Hijawi - Music
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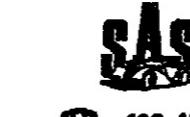
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Bosnian Serbs reject peace plan, stiffer sanctions loom

BIJELINA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Bosnian Serb assembly voted unanimously Monday to rebuff an appeal by their Yugoslav patrons to accept a U.N.-sponsored peace plan, setting the stage for stiffer anti-Serb sanctions.

Apparently unfazed by the threat of sanctions, the self-appointed parliament voted 77-0 against a peace plan that was signed by rival Muslims and Croats.

The new international sanctions, set to take effect Tuesday morning, include freezing Yugoslav public and private funds in overseas banks; prohibiting Yugoslav ships from U.N. members' territory; detaining ships, trains and aircraft already abroad; and blockading Yugoslav goods on the vital Danube River.

In Moscow, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev of Russia, a traditional Serbian ally, said his nation now supported the anti-Yugoslav measures.

Looming alongside the sanctions remains possible Western military action.

Under the peace plan, proposed by EC mediator David Owen and U.N. negotiator Cyrus Vance, Bosnian Serbs would have to give up more than one fifth of the 70 per cent of Bosnia Herzegovina that they now hold.

They would also have to accept living in a multi-ethnic Bosnia in which each of the warring factions — the Serbs, Croats and Muslims — would be given control of three provinces and share the administration of Bosnia's capital, Sarajevo.

Clinton sometimes spreads himself too thin'

BOSTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton, nearing the 100-day mark in his presidency, said he has sometimes spread himself too thin and needs to focus on a few big issues at a time.

In an interview with the Boston Globe aboard Air Force One, the president acknowledged that he had had his problems in the White House, partly because he was accustomed to doing things differently when he was governor of Arkansas.

"I do think that I may have overextended myself, and we've got to focus on big things," Mr. Clinton said.

"I'm used to a legislative environment where, as governor, I worked up all these initiatives. I put them into the pot and then we worked them through the legislature," he said.

In the three months of his presidency, however, Mr. Clinton said he has learned that "my job as president is to keep the focus of the American people on the bigger issues that are at stake and to make sure they're keeping the focus of the Congress on that so that we don't get into the kind of political game-playing we had in the last week."

The interview followed a tough week for Mr. Clinton. Senate Republicans killed his jobs-stimulus package with a filibuster and the standoff with Branch Davidians in Texas ended in death and destruction.

Mr. Clinton flew to Boston to address a newspaper industry convention on a day when hundreds of thousands were marching for gay and lesbian rights and an end to the ban on gays in the military, an issue that Mr. Clinton has supported at a high political cost.

The Globe interview also touched on the war in Bosnia, which Mr. Clinton called "not only heartbreaking, it's infuriating."

Some in Congress have called for U.S. bombing of Serbian artillery positions to stow the "ethnic cleansing" campaign in Bosnia, but Mr. Clinton expressed strong reservations. He has already ruled out the use of U.S. ground forces.

"I'm convinced that the United States cannot just simply decide to bomb a few targets in Bosnia and reverse the situation on the ground politically," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton has repeatedly stressed his hope that economic sanctions will force the Serbs to agree to a peace plan, but he told the Globe "we're reviewing our options."

Asked if he was concerned about his place in history if he did not stop the bloodshed in Bosnia, Mr. Clinton wondered aloud why the killing of as many as 130,000 in that war had received so much more attention than the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during the 1970s.

The assembly announced it would ask Bosnian Serbs in a May 15-16 referendum to vote for a "final word" on the plan.

"We... will continue the fight until the end," the assembly said in a proclamation to end the all-night emergency session.

The assembly's vote came a day after the European Community (EC) 12 foreign ministers backed off proposal to use military force to end the carnage in Bosnia.

The ministers, meeting in Denmark, had considered possible air strikes in the former Yugoslavia, but after the meeting, several countries expressed doubt that the EC states would ever endorse allied military intervention.

Washington and the NATO allies planned to consult this week about the option of air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions in another attempt to bring a halt to a war that had left 134,000 people dead or missing in Bosnia the past year.

"What happens in the former Yugoslavia is terrible," said German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. "But what can happen in the future may be even more terrible."

With the vote, the Bosnian Serb parliament set the stage for crushing U.N. sanctions beginning Tuesday, much stiffer than economic measures imposed in May to penalise the leftover former Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro for fomenting war.

Lord Owen, a former British foreign secretary, called the rebel

Serb rebuff "tragic" and spoke of "very certain... confrontation," between Bosnian Serbs and Europe.

In Moscow, Mr. Kozyrev warned the United States "not to do anything totally unilateral. Total Balkan war should be avoided by all costs," he said.

However, he said Russia, which had abstained in the Security Council sanctions vote, now supported the anti-Yugoslav measure.

On Saturday, Britain told Canada it would use air power to protect its Canadian troops providing U.N. humanitarian aid in Srebrenica.

Srebrenica, a town in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, is surrounded by Serb forces and had been the scene of fierce fighting until a ceasefire a week ago.

Bosnian Serbs remained defiant.

"In case of a military intervention, all U.N. forces... will be regarded as aggressors," said Memiclo Krajkovic, the parliament speaker.

The U.N. platoon commander ended the tense standoff on Sunday in the Konjic region of southwest Bosnia by persuading 60 Croat soldiers to give their weapons to the Muslims in exchange for the group's safe conduct out of the city.

A U.N. protection force spokesman said the incident occurred 20 kilometres west of Konjic, on the main relief aid corridor between the Adriatic Sea and central Bosnia, where Muslims and Croats, estranged civil war allies, have been fighting since April 16.

The aircraft, which crashed in an area of open fields and small industries, may have been carrying many foreigners because the cities on its route are all major tourist stops.

No weather problems were reported when the plane crashed outside the airport at Aurangabad, 680 miles (1,239 kilometres) southwest of New Delhi.

Flight IC-491 left New Delhi at 6 a.m. (0030 GMT) for Jaipur and Aurangabad, and was bound for Bombay. It carried 112 passengers and six crew members and took off from Aurangabad at 1 p.m. (0730 GMT).

Many tourists visit Aurangabad to see the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, which contain sculptures and frescoes that are centuries old and that once adorned ancient Hindu kingdoms.



A badly injured Bosnian is being carried away on a stretcher by three Canadian UNPROFOR soldiers to be evacuated by helicopter for treatment in Tuzla as Srebrenica residents look on (AFP photo)

83 killed in India plane crash

NEW DELHI (AP) — An Indian Airlines jetliner carrying 118 people crashed and burst into flames shortly after takeoff in western India Monday, the airline said.

Preliminary reports reaching the airline's headquarters in New Delhi said at least 83 people were killed, Press Trust of India reported.

The Boeing 737 broke into pieces as it caught fire, and 18 people, including the pilot and co-pilot, were rescued as firemen fought the blaze, airline spokesman V. Narayanan said.

A senior police officer in Aurangabad, from where the plane took off, said 12 passengers were hospitalised. "Most probably, the rest may be dead," said the officer, R.M. Dahate.

Some of the passengers saved themselves by jumping out of the wreckage, according to Sharad Pawar, the chief minister of

Maharashtra, the state where the accident occurred.

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The accident occurred two days after an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 was hijacked on a flight from New Delhi to the northern city of Srinagar. After negotiating with the armed hijacker for 11 hours in Amritsar, Indian commandos sneaked onto the aircraft and shot and killed him early Sunday.

It was the fourth Indian Airlines hijacking this year.

Earlier this year, an Indian Airlines jetliner leased from Uzbekistan Airlines crash landed in New Delhi, flipped onto its back and broke into pieces, but all 165 people on board survived.

In August 1991, an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed in Imphal, in the Far Eastern state of Manipur, killing all 69 people aboard. The airline's worst domestic crash occurred in 1988 when a Boeing 737 crashed in the city of Ahmedabad, killing 131 people.

S. African meeting to discuss poll date

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Leaders from across South Africa's political spectrum agreed at democracy negotiations Monday to discuss a date for the country's first all-race elections.

Communist Party Chairman Joe Slovo, whose group is one of 26 participating in constitutional talks at a conference centre outside Johannesburg, called for discussion of an election date to be added to the agenda.

The proposal is that this negotiating council should instruct the planning council to fix a date before April 1994, to be discussed at the next meeting of this council," Mr. Slovo said.

The delegations from the white-minority government and the Communist-allied African National Congress backed Mr. Slovo's motion. But it drew objections from the ANC's main black political rival, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Inkatha representative Frank

Mdlalose said the council could not discuss an election date before it tackled the issue of political violence that has killed more than 15,000 blacks in eight years.

"I don't see how we could put such a motion over and above the issue of violence," said Mr. Mdlalose, whose Inkatha movement is locked in a turf war with the ANC.

After more than 30 minutes of discussion, the meeting agreed to place the election date on the agenda — but as the item below discussion of violence and the form of a new South African state.

The murder of Communist Party Secretary-General Chris Hani on April 10 and the violence that erupted as a result had added new urgency to the search for a democratic future, including an election date.

The planning council to which Mr. Slovo referred is a smaller group of negotiators who have been meeting in private to draft

recommendations.

President F.W. De Klerk and ANC-leader Nelson Mandela have both urged speedy progress, saying the election must be held as soon as possible — within 12 months at the most — to defuse tension fuelled by Mr. Han's murder.

"I am confident that within six weeks we can make the breakthrough that we need," Mr. De Klerk said in Cape Town.

The talks opened with one minute of silence in memory of three political leaders who died within two weeks — Mr. Han, Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht, who died aged 72 last Thursday, and ANC Chairman Oliver Tambo, who died of a stroke aged 75, Saturday.

The Inkatha Freedom Party said Monday there could not be elections in South Africa before all "private armies," including the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC), were dismantled.

Half-price sausage boosts poll turnout

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin battled for the hearts and minds of Russian voters, but some polling stations were aiming for people's stomachs instead. Commonwealth Television said a number of stations in the Volga city of Saratov put sausage on sale at half price to jolt voters out of their apathy and increase turnout in a referendum on Mr. Yeltsin's presidency and policies.

"We need to look at the whole issue of policing, what in a free society City businesses can tolerate in the way of increased surveillance and checks," said Mr. Cassidy.

Security sources say the IRA has a large network of guerrillas living in Britain and working in small units. The organisation constantly switches tactics and targets, making it difficult for police to predict where or when they will strike.

Scientists close in on meteorite

SYDNEY (APP) — Australian astronomers said they are closing in on an area in central New South Wales where they believe a meteorite landed 10 days ago.

The white fireball with green tail blazed across eastern Australia on April 16, surprising skygazers across the three eastern mainland states. Following about 400 reported sightings, astronomers believed the meteorite hit within a 30 square kilometres area of farming land in north west New South Wales. The meteorite ball and its crater when it hit the ground would be very small,

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. authorities identify 1 cult body

WACO, Texas (R) — Authorities said Sunday that they had identified the first of 44 bodies recovered from the fire-swept ruins of cult leader David Koresh's Branch Davidian compound. The victim was identified as David Michael Jones, 38, who died of a single bullet to the head. Mr. Jones was the brother of Mr. Koresh's only legal wife, Rachel Jones Koresh, authorities said. A medical examiner identified the body after a post-mortem by matching fingerprints and dental records, McLennan County Justice of the Peace David Pareya told a news conference. He said the medical examiner told him there was a "90 per cent probability" of identifying all of the bodies pulled from the compound so far, a remarkable feat since they suffered extreme heat damage, with some parts pulverised. X-rays and dental records are the primary means of identifying the bodies.

Ex-navy chief faces charges in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — Prosecutors expanded an investigation into military corruption Monday and summoned a former navy chief of staff on charges of taking money to promote officers. The prosecutors were also looking for a former Marine Corps commandant on bribery and graft charges. The commandant allegedly gave bribes to get promoted while taking bribes to promote junior officers. The moves were the latest in a massive reform drive being pushed by the civilian government of President Kim Young-Sam to root out widespread corruption in Korean politics.

CSCE meeting opens on Karabakh

PRAGUE (APP) — The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) opened an emergency meeting here Monday on the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute, though diplomats said it was unlikely to give the go-ahead for deployment of 600 peacekeepers planned for the enclave. The Swedish presidency of the CSCE called the special meeting of senior conference officials to try to push ahead of group's year-old effort to mediate a solution to the territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, after hopes for peace were raised last week. The special meeting was requested by Azerbaijan — which lost a key land corridor between Armenia and the enclave in fighting earlier this month — and backed by 17-member states in the CSCE, which includes all Europe plus the United States and Canada. The diplomats said the United States and Russia were among several countries that have been calling for stronger CSCE efforts to reach permanent ceasefire in the undeclared war.

Akhiito ends Okinawan trip

TOKYO (AP) — Emperor Akihito returned here Monday after paying tribute to the 120,000 who died in World War II in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa, ending a four-day visit peppered by protests and bomb attacks. Emperor Akihito and his wife, Empress Michiko, left Naha, the capital of Okinawa, aboard a special plane after visiting the Shuri, an exotic palace that housed the local Ryukyu monarch for 450 years. The visit, the first by an emperor, has sparked an outcry from leftist radicals opposed to the imperial system, raising the specter of World War II fought under the name of Emperor Hirohito, Emperor Akihito's father. Okinawa is the only site where Japanese and U.S. troops fought on Japanese soil during the war, in battles that claimed 200,000 Japanese lives including 120,000 civilians on the islands.

Pope ends visit to Albania

SHKODRA, Albania (AP) — Pope John Paul II Sunday brought a message of hope to Europe's most backward country and held it up as an example of ethnic tolerance in the Balkans. "Don't degenerate into that intolerant and aggressive nationalism," Pope John Paul urged, referring to the war in nearby Bosnia. The first papal visit came just a few years after Albania lifted a ban on religion imposed by hard-line communists. Pope John Paul, who returned to Rome late Sunday night, focused on tributes to the "heroic church" of Albania and its martyrs and refrained from some of his recent harsh criticism of the international community for failing to end the fighting in Bosnia. Vatican officials said the Pope was aware of Serbian sensibilities if he spoke out during a Balkan trip.

Private U.S. aid arrives in Cuba

KEY WEST, Florida (AP) — A private U.S. flotilla carrying humanitarian aid arrived in Cuba in a bid to support what its sponsors say is a growing pro-democracy movement there, organisers said. The boats — mostly small craft whose total number was not given — arrived Sunday in a port near Havana after sailing Saturday and Sunday from this southern Florida port, according to the Key West group Basta which organised the initiative. The craft carried mainly food, clothing, medication and Bibles. The conservative Cuban American National Foundation and other anti-Communist Cuban expatriate groups opposed the mission, fearing the goods would help shore up the cash-strapped Havana regime of Fidel Castro.

Asked if he was concerned about his place in history if he did not stop the bloodshed in Bosnia, Mr. Clinton wondered aloud why the killing of as many as 130,000 in that war had received so much more attention than the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during the 1970s.

Cambodian politicians want all Vietnamese to leave

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Thousands of ethnic Vietnamese have fled to their homeland after massacres, blamed on Khmer Rouge guerrillas. While condemning the killings, Cambodian politicians are urging all Vietnamese to leave.

Centuries of territorial conflict, including the loss to Vietnam of the fertile Mekong Delta 200 years ago, are at the root of the bitterness.

During 11 years of occupation that began with an invasion in December 1978, Cambodians hated the Vietnamese soldiers even though they overthrew a Khmer Rouge regime that had slaughtered hundreds of thousands of people.